NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
September 4, 1998

Museum receives new man-eating lion

Childhood visits to The Field Museum gave Chicago native Wayne Hosek an enduring dream: to visit the wilds of Africa. The Tsavo lions, the African bull elephants in Stanley Field Hall, and Carl Akeley's lion hunting sculpture intrigued Hosek particularly.

Fast forward to 1991, when Hosek found himself helping villagers in Mfuwe, Zambia, where six people are known to have been killed by a man-eating lion. Although Hosek had never before hunted a lion, he joined the professional hunters and eventually succeeded in killing the man-eater. His memories of The Field Museum prompted him to come the Museum to donate the man-eater on Wednesday, September 2.

Like the man-eaters from Tsavo, the Mfuwe man-eater is a maneless male lion. The Mfuwe man-eater, however, stands nearly five feet tall—much larger than the lions of Tsavo. The new man-eater will appear in an exhibit set to open in February 1999.

Got a great idea for a new public program?

Staff and volunteers from all departments of the Museum are invited to submit ideas at a "Brainstorming Session" on **Thursday, September 10, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Dining Room C & D**, to plan public programs for March to August 1999. Program ideas may be submitted in the following ways:

- Submit a proposal to the Education Department
- Attend the Program Planning Brainstorming Session
- Phone or e-mail your ideas to **Sue Stott**, Education Events Coordinator or **Kristie Webber**, Head of Public Programs

Program ideas will be reviewed, considered and developed by the staff of the Education Department. Please plan to attend the meeting on September 10 and share your ideas and knowledge about the Museum's collections, research and exhibits.

Submitted by **Sue Stott**

Special Announcement!

Beginning Tuesday, September 8, the Corner Bakery will offer a 20% discount to staff and volunteers. Please remember to show your Museum ID when making purchases.

FIELD NOTES

Week of September 7

Public Events/Special Events

Labor Day (Staff Holiday)
- Monday

Construction begins on Picnic washroom area (through Nov. 12)
- Tuesday

Chicago Wilderness Workshop
- Tuesday, 9 a.m. in LH2

Illinois Mycological Association
- Wednesday, 6 p.m. in LH2

Columbia Coll. Teachers Workshop
- Thursday, 4:30 p.m. in Clrm. C

Music Theater Workshop
- Friday, 5 p.m. in Clrm A

Staff/Volunteer Events

Aerobics Class, Classroom A
- Tuesday and Thursday, 5:15 p.m.

Softball Game
- Tuesday at 5:45 p.m.

Volunteer Training Session
- Wednesday, 9 a.m. in LH2

Volunteer Training Sessions
- Saturday, 9 a.m. in LH2 & Clrm C

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Submit dates for the coming week by Tuesday at noon.

Museum virtually reaches millions (more or less)

Did it appear to be a wee bit more crowded at the Museum last week? An additional 20,000 folks visited The Field Museum from the State Fair and watched preparators work on Sue. Although they did not actually enter through the front door, they all were able to watch and ask questions about the ongoing process of uncovering Sue's bones.

The live audio and video feed from here to the Fair worked great with only a few minor glitches. This example of how to use new technology for long-distance learning and bringing folks from far away into the Museum was perfect for highlighting the work on Sue. Although they were in Springfield, the interaction made it seem like they were right outside the prep lab.

We want to thank everyone that helped to make this program a success, especially **Paul Brinkman**, **Lisa Bergwall**, **Jennifer Moerman**, **Matt Groves**, **Bob Masek** from Geology, and **Jennifer Eagleton** from Education.

Submitted by **Peter Laraba** for the Education Department

Call-out for art materials

The Public Relations Department needs your help. The Field Museum would like to participate in the Department of Cultural Affairs' State Street Halloween Procession on Saturday, October 24 at noon. We are working with grade school children from the El Hogar del Nino Community Center. As part of a six week project, the children will create costumes of their favorite dinosaurs so they can join The Field Museum's dinosaur mascots in the procession. We are requesting everyone's help in rounding up art materials to help make this possible. Please drop off any materials to the Public Relations Department (2nd Floor North). **The deadline for materials is September 11, 1998.**

We are interested in items including, but not limited to: fabric, foam, buttons, feathers, beads, felt, tissue paper, foil, glitter, construction paper, and yarn.

If you have any questions, please contact **Carolyn Byrne** at ext. 558. Thanks for your help!

Important festival date changes for 1999

Due to scheduling conflicts, several festival dates have been changed for 1999. The dates for *It's Wild in Chicago '99* have been moved to March 27, 28, 29 and 30 in order to coincide with the opening of *Underground Adventure*. The dates for *Celebración '99* have been moved to October 16, 17, 18 and 19 so that the *Cartier 1900-1939* exhibit may open on Saturday, October 2. Please note these changes on your calendar. Thanks!

Submitted by **Sue Stott**

Auxiliary Services relocates

The department of Auxiliary Services has moved from the Special Events offices to the Museum Store offices. **Laura Sadler** can still be reached at ext. 888. **Jamie Green** has left the Museum to pursue other interests. **Bill Watt** is filling in temporarily as the department assistant and can be reached at ext. 495.

Submitted by **Laura Sadler**

ATTENTION:
Will Feed for Work

The Campaign Office is looking for people *(with nice handwriting)* to help address invitations for the September 30 **Royal Society reception honoring Peter Crane.**

We are looking for people who can commit time on **Tuesday, September 8** - or - **Wednesday, September 9**.

* Pizza and beverages will be provided*

TIMES: Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Dinner: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Please call **Janet Young (x210)** to volunteer for one or more of the times above.

Any assistance you can give on either/both days would be **greatly** appreciated!

THANK YOU!

If you don't come for the pizza, come for Pete's sake!!!

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

- After three marathon days of computer software demos, the Finance Department will be choosing its new software this week. Thanks to everyone who participated in the sessions, and to those whose food items were pushed aside in the refrigerator to make room for our lunches.
- ALERT to all airline travelers: As reported in the September 2 Wall Street Journal, the U.S. Department of Transportation has proposed to the 10 major airlines guidelines designed to accommodate passengers with peanut allergies. Its solution: Each plane should have a designated "peanut-free zone." Yet another reason to book your flights early to request seating in or out of this area on the aircraft, depending on your preference.

Butterfly Store fixture sale

Stop by the Butterfly Store on Thursday, September 10, for some great deals on used store fixtures – cabinets, shelving, crates and barrels. The sale is for employees and volunteers only, and will run from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. All items will be cash-and-carry on a first-come, first-served basis. Storage is limited around here (!), so please have a means of getting your new furniture home that day.

Submitted by **Jill Mandler**

Thanks to all who helped with Sue

A big thank you to everyone involved in the CT scanning project of Sue's skull. The skull was wrapped in aluminum, covered with polyurethane foam, and then encased in an extraordinarily strong shipping crate. It was then loaded on a moving van with an armed security officer and driven to southern California, with us following in a chase car. The skull will remain in the crate for the month-long scanning process, and test scans already look better than expected.

Thanks again,
Chris Brochu and **Bob Masek**

Best wishes to Christina Halperin

Christina Halperin, who has worked as an intern for CCUC and is currently working wonders with the computer database in Anthropology, will be leaving the Museum on September 9 to take a full-time job at the Orca Art Gallery. We wish her the best of luck!

Submitted by **Janice Klein**

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Joe Byrnes	Education	10 years
Marcia Pyle	Security	15 years
Lance Grande	Geology	15 years
Leatrice Evans	Security	10 years

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Native American Materials on Loan in Canada, California

Janice Klein, Registrar in Anthropology, just returned from a week's vacation, where she saw first-hand the extremely positive responses we have had from Native American groups to some of the Anthropology Department exhibit loans.

At the Vancouver Art Gallery two of the curators met with Janice to thank The Field Museum for the loan of two Nuu-chah-nulth masks that are in the exhibition, *Down from the Shimmering Sky*. She was told that members of the tribe were extremely moved to see the masks and that at the public opening The Field Museum was singled out for praise.

At the Nanaimo District Museum on Vancouver Island she was met at the door by the Museum Director and the Cultural Liaison Officer of the Sneneymuxw First Nation, who expressed their appreciation of the loan of Nanaimo loom and weaving equipment to their museum. One of the pieces, a beautifully carved spindle whorl, is a featured image in their introductory video.

Finally, a recent article in *News From Native California* describes an exhibition of California Pomo basketry to which The Field Museum lent nine baskets, including several made by a weaver whose relatives visited the exhibit and were thrilled to see their ancestor's baskets. The Field Museum has also worked closely on other projects with one of the guest curators of the exhibition and has developed a good reputation throughout Pomo country.

These loans not only share the Anthropology collections with a broader public, but also provide The Field Museum with another avenue for developing better relations with Native Americans.

Field Museum Research in the News

As if being the featured curator for August in the Field Museum calendar wasn't enough, Associate Curator of Zoology **Janet Voight** has found her research the subject of a good bit of media coverage during the past month. The August 11 weekly Science Times section of *The New York Times* featured a cover story by Natalie Angier on octopuses, which quoted Janet and described some of her work with preserved specimens. Two weeks later Kathy Sawyer, correspondent for the *Washington Post* and Janet's cabin-mate during her two-and-a-half weeks at sea on the R/V Atlantis last month, published an article in the *Post* about the cruise. Given that Kathy had threatened to use quotes that Janet had given in her sleep, this article was met with a fair bit of trepidation but in fact offered a glowing description of an ALVIN dive and the research that paid for the cruise. In addition, this year's edition of the Program Description and Guidelines for grant proposals to the West Coast and Polar Regions Undersea Research Center (the branch of NOAA that has funded Janet's field research in the North Pacific for the last three years) includes two photos of Janet at sea as well as Field Museum photos of a Field Museum octopus specimen collected from a hydrothermal vent in the North Pacific. Capping the public relations month was a 50-minute radio interview for The Voice of America's *News Now* show in which Janet discussed various aspects of her research, concerning both octopuses specifically and deep-sea biology more generally.

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!